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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. REED).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 11, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM REED to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MOMENT OF SILENCE COMMEMORATING THE 9/11 ATTACKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The House will now observe a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

Will all present please rise for a moment of silence.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

WHERE ARE THE BENGHAZI KILLERS 1 YEAR LATER?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker:

In Libya, al Qaeda cousins, as I call them, the Ansar al-Sharia, claims responsibility

for the murder of our U.S. Ambassador and three others. It's no coincidence that these two attacks occurred nearly at the same time, and they both occurred on September 11.

In the past, the United States has always held and went after those that were responsible for this type of conduct. In 1998, when the Kenyan Embassy was attacked and Americans were killed, we responded. Of course, we responded on September 11. We responded after the first World Trade Center bombing. Then, in 1996, when 19 American soldiers were murdered in Saudi Arabia, we responded.

Madam Speaker, the United States must always respond to terrorists, and we must let them be reminded again and again we will respond in an appropriate manner, as we did on September 11. We must respond today, and we must respond tomorrow. I am encouraged that the President will soon address the Nation on what our response will be.

We must hold those responsible personally accountable because we must let people understand that they need to leave us alone. That is what the message needs to be. We must have justice in these terrorist attacks by these individuals against Americans because, Madam Speaker, justice is what we do.

Mr. Speaker, that was the speech I gave on this House floor 1 year ago. September 12, 2013, was when it was given. But it has been 1 year since the attack in Benghazi, Libya; and we still have no answers.

Today, as we remember those who were murdered 12 years ago on September 11, 2001, in New York, Pennsylvania, and at the Pentagon, young and old, from countries all over the world, we should also remember those four Americans murdered 1 year ago in Benghazi, Libya. We went after those first 9/11 killers—as we should. America had resolve, as it usually has had in our history. But the Benghazi killers run free today.

Mr. Speaker, it is ironic that the greatest power that has ever existed, with all our vast resources of military, CIA intelligence, the NSA intelligence, the FBI, we can't capture some killers

who killed Americans in Benghazi, Libya. When the media can go and talk to them and have them on television, we can't even find them, capture them, and bring them back to justice. It's been a year. What does that tell the families, what does it tell Americans, when we haven't been able to accomplish this capture of terrorists? We know that Ansar al-Sharia was involved. I said that the day after this murder occurred last year on this House floor.

So today, I filed the Ansar al-Sharia Terrorist Designation Act of 2013. It says, "Ansar al-Sharia is a terrorist organization, and we must use all resources available to go after these killers." We must label them as terrorists and deal with them appropriately.

We're not sure about United States policy today in the Middle East. We don't know what the current U.S. policy is about Americans killed overseas. All we get is a lot of words. Even the White House Press Secretary said, "Well, Benghazi was a long time ago." It seems like more is said than done in the Benghazi episode.

Our enemies continue to test us because they no longer fear us, Mr. Speaker. The world no longer knows where America stands when we are attacked, either at home or abroad, not our allies, not our enemies, and not American citizens.

The President is concerned about Syrians being killed by Syrians. I wish he was just as concerned about Americans being murdered by terrorists in Benghazi, Libya. The administration needs to go after these terrorists by any means necessary and bring them to justice and restore our credibility with the American people, because justice is what we do in this country.

And that's just the way it is.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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